

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The rejection presented in the Office Action dated March 30, 2007 (hereinafter Office Action) has been considered but is believed to be improper. Reconsideration of the pending claims and allowance of the application in view of the present response is respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully traverses the §102(e) rejection based on the teachings of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0019825 by Smiga *et al.* (hereinafter “Smiga”) because Smiga does not teach or suggest each of the claimed limitations. For example, Smiga at least does not teach carrying out processing related to the associations based on commands obtained from the user interface, as claimed in Claims 1 and 20. In contrast, Smiga teaches that after a keynote is classified (assumed to be asserted as corresponding to the claimed multi-dimensional associating according to information type) action is taken on the keynote such as sending, updating, sharing, or storing information (paragraph [0034]). There is no teaching that such action is carried out based upon any commands from a user; rather, it appears that Smiga teaches automatically taking action once the keynote is classified. Without a presentation of correspondence to each of the claimed limitations, the §102(e) rejection is improper.

In order to anticipate a claim, the asserted reference must teach every element of the claim. “A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the patent claim; *i.e.* every element of the claimed invention must be literally present, arranged as in the claim. *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). Therefore, all claim elements, and their limitations, must be found in the prior art reference to maintain the rejection based on 35 U.S.C. §102. Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner has not shown that Smiga teaches every element of independent Claims 1 and 20 in the requisite detail and therefore fails to anticipate Claims 1-38.

Applicant further traverses the rejection because the Office Action improperly pieced together portions of different embodiments of Smiga without showing how those portions work together to arrive at the claimed limitations. Section 2131 of the MPEP clearly states that “the identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim” (citing *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*) and further states that various portions of a reference cannot be asserted together to anticipate a claim unless the reference arranges the limitations as they are arranged in the claim. In this instance, the cited portions in paragraphs [261] and [262] discuss a specific embodiment directed to a collaboration cycle. Moreover, these cited portions appear to be unrelated to the claimed limitations as they are directed to communication from a delegate, not commands entered by the initial user. Thus, the rejection is improper, and Applicant accordingly requests that it be withdrawn.

Dependent Claims 2-19 and 21-38 depend from independent Claims 1 and 20, respectively, and also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Smiga. While Applicant does not acquiesce with the particular rejections to these dependent claims, these rejections are also improper for the reasons discussed above in connection with independent Claims 1 and 20. These dependent claims include all of the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims and recite additional features which further distinguish these claims from the cited reference. Therefore, the rejection of dependent Claims 2-19 and 21-38 is improper.

With particular respect to the rejection of dependent Claims 8 and 27, Applicant traverses because Smiga does not teach or suggest each of the claimed limitations. The cited portion of Smiga is not directed to reminding the user in the user interface about a stored association. Rather, the cited portion is directed to sending a reminder to a delegate to respond to a user. Without a presentation of correspondence to each of the claimed limitations, the rejection is improper and Applicant requests that it be withdrawn.

Applicant has also amended Claims 1 and 20 to indicate that the commands used in the processing related to the associations are further commands from the commands used to process information. Support for these changes may be found in the Specification, for

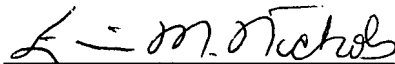
example, at paragraph [0027]; therefore, the changes do not introduce new matter. These changes were made to further clarify the claim language and not for any reasons related to the asserted reference. The claims are believed to be patentable over the asserted reference for the reasons set forth above.

Authorization is given to charge Deposit Account No. 50-3581 (NKO.008.US) any necessary fees for this filing. If the Examiner believes it necessary or helpful, the undersigned attorney of record invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorney to discuss any issues related to this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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